

**DEPARTMENT
POLICY**

Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipients may use their benefits to purchase prepared food in certain authorized restaurants. They must meet at least one of the following conditions:

- Individual head of households 60 years of age and over and/or their spouse 60 years of age and over.
- Disabled head of households and/or their disabled spouse as defined per BEM 550.
- Homeless individuals.

Food assistance benefits cannot be used at restaurants in border or in other States.

**Eligible
Restaurants**

To be eligible to accept FAP as payment for prepared food, restaurants must meet all the following requirements:

- Have sit-down seating available.

Exception: Unless prohibited by a public health order that would only allow delivery or takeout.

- Be fully accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Have a current food service license.
- Sign an agreement with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to among other things, offer low cost-meals.
- Be authorized by the USDA to participate in the Food Assistance Program as a retailer.
- Have a point-of-sale device for use by eligible recipients.

Eligible recipients have a code on their Bridge card allowing for purchase of prepared food at authorized restaurants.

If the household's circumstances change, such as no longer being homeless, the card is updated accordingly and FAP benefits can no longer be used at a restaurant.

**CENTRAL OFFICE
RESPONSIBILITIES****Food Assistance
Agreements**

Central office will process requests from restaurants wishing to accept FAP benefits and approve agreements with those which qualify. Refer restaurants inquiring about the program to: MDHHS-RestaurantMealProgram@michigan.gov.

Information on the program and copies of the restaurant agreement are also available on the MDHHS website.

**LOCAL OFFICE
RESPONSIBILITIES****Informing the
Client**

At the group's request, the local office will provide the names and addresses of authorized restaurants that accept FAP as payment for prepared food in their establishments. RFT 262, lists restaurants authorized to accept FAP benefits. A list is also available on the MDHHS website.

LEGAL BASE

7 CFR 278.1

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, 42 USC 2011-2036